

Note:

The attached preliminary assessment  
should be substituted for the assessment  
on the same subject, dated 25 August 1967,  
[redacted] Paragraph 6 has been  
revised.

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NGA Review Complete

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26 August 1967

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment of  
Photography

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Summary

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photography of nearly all of North Vietnam north of the panhandle, including most of the high-priority surface-to-surface missile search areas, most of the serviceable airfields, about half of the SAM sites, and many US strike and interdiction target areas. No evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted.

Note: This memorandum was prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence.

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2. No evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted.

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3. North Vietnamese air defenses:

No

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unusual activity was apparent on any of the fields with the exception of the roofing over of alert aircraft revetments at Phuc Yen, Gia Lam, and Hoa Lac airfields. The purpose of this roofing is not clear, but it does not appear to be of sufficient strength to withstand a bomb blast. It could be intended as a weather covering for the alert aircraft and crews and may also serve to protect the revetments from CBU pellets.

4. The air order of battle as shown in the photography is quite close to current official estimates with the exception of MIG-21s, none of which were in evidence on this mission.

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all seven MIG-21s then estimated to be in country were under cover, there is no explanation of their whereabouts at the time of the mission. The MIG-15/17 tally of 21 aircraft on the DRV airfields and considered operational is very close to the official estimate, however, and the excess may be explained by the presence of UMIG-15 trainers which could be mistaken for MIG-15/17 fighters in an initial read-out.

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5. The photography showed 108 of the more than 200 serviceable SAM sites in North Vietnam.

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rent estimates place 25 to 30 SAM firing units in the DRV, 14 of which showed up on this mission. One of the 69 unoccupied sites appeared to have been constructed

The 25 remaining sites identified on the photography were not sufficiently clear to determine occupancy.

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6. Bomb damage assessment of Hanoi Power Plant: The mission provided good coverage of the Hanoi Thermal Power Plant, which had been the target of five Walleye missiles. Two direct hits on the roof of the generator hall can be seen. The impact points of the other three missiles cannot be precisely determined, although some new damage is observable in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Assuming the two missiles exploded within the generator hall, it is probable that two turbine generators received at least some damage.

7. Transportation: The mission also provided coverage of much of the rail network in the northern part of the country, with the exception of the Kep-Thai Nguyen line. An initial scan of the film showed that the mission covered 18 bridges and 11 rail yards that are included on the CIA priority requirements list for bomb damage assessment. Current information on the status of the Hanoi railroad highway bridges over the Red River and the Canal des Rapides and serviceable by-passes was also obtained.

8. Chinese activity in North Vietnam: Two new storage areas with 42 dispersed buildings were identified at Lao Cai, showing that the Chinese engineers there are continuing to expand their construction activities.